

Applic. No. 10/650,051
Amdt. dated February 13, 2008
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2007

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 12-15 and 18 remain in the application. Claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-9, 16, 17, and 21 are being cancelled herewith. Claims 10, 11, 19, and 20 were previously cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6-9, 12, 14, and 18 have been rejected as being obvious over Menard (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,101) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 3 on page 4 of the Office action, claim 16 has been rejected as being obvious over Menard (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,101) in view of Pratt (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,313) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 4 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 3 and 13 have been rejected as being obvious over Menard (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,101) in view of Ganton (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,702) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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In item 5 on page 6 of the Office action, claim 4 has been rejected as being obvious over Menard (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,101) and further in view of Ganton (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,702) and Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,807) (hereinafter "Nakamura") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 6 on page 7 of the Office action, claim 15 has been rejected as being obvious over Menard (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,101) in view of Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,807) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is appreciatively note from item 7 on page 8 of the Office action that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 12 has been amended so as to include the subject matter of allowable claim 17 and intervening claim 16. Therefore, claim 12 is allowable, since claim 12 is allowable, dependent claims 13-15 and 18 are allowable as well.

Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

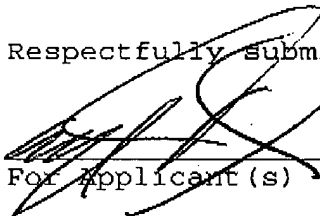
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

AKD:cgm

February 13, 2008

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